

**HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 25, 2021**

The meeting of the House Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Gene Gabel. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Gabel were Barry Christman, Keith Endy, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council member Charles Heller; Marianne Deery, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Nathan Laucks and Ralph Schoenly, Inframark LLC; Jason Newhard, SSM; and numerous interested citizens.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2021 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Gabel, seconded by Mr. Christman, and approved.

Mr. Gabel called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

**Unfinished Business**

**25 South Reading Avenue** – Relocation of the driveway is scheduled to begin on June 7<sup>th</sup> and estimated to take approximately one month to complete.

**Lighting Plan 25 SRA and 16 WPA** – Mrs. Loder reviewed with the Committee information provided by SDE engineer Steve Gribb concerning electrical service to the proposed addition of seven lights in the public parking lot. Mr. Gribb advised that Met-Ed will not permit the parking lot light fixtures to be added as part of the borough street light system and informed Mr. Gribb to apply for a new electrical service with Met Ed. The cost of a new electrical service is in the range of \$5,000. Mr. Gribb noted that obtaining power from the borough owned property at 16 West Philadelphia Avenue, which is leased to the Eastern Berks Regional Police Commission, is not desired by the Borough; however, it is the most cost effective way to get power to the light fixtures. Mr. Gribb estimates the cost to be approximately \$1,200. He also points out that the annual electric cost for the lights is about \$350 per year. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to pursue the option of obtaining power from 16 W Philadelphia Avenue. Mr. Deery and Mrs. Loder advised the Committee that they had a brief discussion with the Chairman of the EBRP Commission, Todd Gamler, on this subject and he did not feel that this would pose a problem. Mr. Deery, Mr. Heller and Mrs. Loder, as members of the EBRP Commission, will discuss this matter with the Commission at their June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**New Business**

**Park Use Agreements Duryea Day & BaBB Pickleball Tournament** – Mrs. Loder reviewed with the committee a Park Use Agreement for the annual Duryea Day event sponsored by the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. Mrs. Loder noted that

the agreement terms and conditions remain the same as in prior years. Mrs. Loder also reviewed a Park Use Agreement for Building A Better Boyertown to hold a Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mrs. Loder stated this event is a fundraiser for the BaBB, and all funds generated from the event are slated to benefit the BaBB. Following brief discussion, the Committee agreed to place both agreements on the agenda of the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of Borough Council for approval.

**Expansion Request Pickleball Court** – Mr. Gabel recognized Jean Philips, spokesperson for a group entitled Boyertown Picklers. The group requested to meet with the House Committee to open a dialogue about construction of additional Pickleball Courts at the Community Park. The group advised the members that the number of entry level Pickleball players has skyrocketed and it is their opinion that the construction of additional courts is justified.

Ms. Philips stated that the group has a company that will prepare a plan for additional courts. The Committee advised the group that when they have a draft plan prepared, they should contact Mrs. Loder to be placed on the committee agenda.

The group also noted that the tournaments they sponsored have raised \$3,000. The group is currently investigating the purchase of nets to install between the courts. The group was advised that any improvements they wish to see at the courts must be approved by Borough Council. The group should bring their improvement requests to the House Committee of Borough Council for consideration.

### **Public Comment**

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. was made by Mr. Gabel and second by Mr. Endy. The next meeting of the House Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder  
Borough Secretary